

### Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence:

- (a) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4;
- (b) of the DNA insert encoding a Secs-1 polypeptide in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-1755;
- (c) encoding a polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5; or
- (d) that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c).

Claim 2 (previously presented): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a region of the nucleotide sequence of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO: 4, or
- (b) the DNA insert encoding a Secs-1 polypeptide in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-1755; encoding a polypeptide fragment of at least about 25 amino acid residues, but not more than 80 amino acid residues, wherein upon injection into an animal the polypeptide fragment produces an antibody that binds to the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5;

wherein the isoleucine residue at position 12 may be substituted with a methionine residue;  
the serine residue at position 18 may be substituted with a cysteine residue;  
the isoleucine residue at position 19 may be substituted with a valine residue;  
the threonine residue at position 22 may be substituted with a serine residue;  
the lysine residue at any of positions 25, 61, or 64 may be substituted with an arginine residue;

the arginine residue at position 26 may be substituted with a lysine residue;  
the arginine residue at position 27 may be substituted with a histidine residue;  
the asparagine residue at position 51 may be substituted with a threonine residue;  
the histidine residue at position 55 may be substituted with an asparagine residue;  
the valine residue at position 81 may be substituted with an isoleucine residue;~~and~~

~~the residues at any of positions 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 20, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 57, 59, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, or 71 may be substituted with any naturally occurring amino acid; or~~

(b) a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of (a).

Claim 4 (original): A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The isolated host cell of Claim 5 that is a eukaryotic cell.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The isolated host cell of Claim 5 that is a prokaryotic cell.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A process of producing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1(a)-(c), 2, or 3(a), comprising the step of culturing the isolated host cell of Claim 5 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule, and optionally isolating the polypeptide from the culture, thereby producing the polypeptide.

Claims 9-59 (cancelled).